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Manitoba

Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board

Fishing Equipment Losses Program in Grand Rapids

1986

Final Report

MANITOBA

MANITOBA DISASTER ASSISTANCE BOARD

FISHING EQUIPMENT LOSSES PROGRAM

IN

GRAND RAPIDS

1986

FINAL REPORT

MANITOBA DISASTER ASSISTANCE BOARD

FINAL REPORT ON

THE 1986 FISHING EQUIPMENT LOSSES PROGRAM

IN GRAND RAPIDS

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Manitoba

Government Services

Manitoba Disaster
Assistance Board

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June 15, 1987

The Honourable Harry M. Harapiak
Minister of Government Services
Room 228 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
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Dear Mr. Minister:

We wish to advise that the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board, established by Order-in-Council 759, dated August 19, 1981 and amended by Orders-in-Council 686, dated June 22, 1983 and 428, dated April 11, 1984, has completed the work assigned to it under Order-in-Council 39, dated January 7, 1987, regarding the Fishing equipment losses Program for the fishermen in Grand Rapids. We, therefore, now submit the final report of the Board's activities and findings under this program.

We are grateful for the privilege of being of service to the residents of Manitoba.

Yours truly,

Joseph Masi, Secretary

Albert St. Hilaire, Chairman

G. Willis Ayers, Vice-Chairman

Rudy A. Regehr, Board Member

FORWARD

The severe storm which struck Grand Rapids on September 23, 1986, caused severe hardship to the commercial fishermen in Grand Rapids.

The Manitoba Government announced a Fishing Equipment Losses Program to financially assist those commercial fishermen that incurred losses.

In the pages that follow, the details of this program are outlined as well as the activities and findings of the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board wishes to express its appreciation to the Government of Manitoba for providing financial assistance to resolve the problems which arose from the severe storm in Grand Rapids. Particular thanks should go to the Honourable John S. Plohman, former Minister of Government Services, and his staff, all of whom provided the Board with information and other material aid to ensure the program was a success.

The Board would also like to thank the Honourable Harry Harapiak, former Minister of Northern Affairs and M.L.A. for The Pas, for notifying the proper authorities of the severe storm and the problems of the fishermen in Grand Rapids.

The Board is grateful to Yvonne Lavallee, Administrator for the Grand Rapids Fishermen's Co-op, for her excellent cooperation with the Board in distributing the application forms to the fishermen that incurred losses, collecting and sending them in to the Board's office, and finally ensuring all the necessary documents were appropriately signed by the fishermen.

Finally, the Board would like to thank its staff for the diligent and conscientious manner in which the business of the Board was conducted.

SECTION 1

LOSSES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 23, 1986 STORM IN GRAND RAPIDS

The storm that struck Grand Rapids on September 23, 1986 caused a number of commercial fishermen to incur great losses of their fishing equipment.

Many of the fishermen in Grand Rapids go out for days at a time, either staying on the islands or on the main shore. When these fishermen return from fishing, they generally leave most of the items in boats or around the shore's edge in fish tubs. The storm was very severe and the high waters washed the articles such as tubs, paddles, ropes, and other fishing equipment away.

Some tents were ripped severely and ended up in the trees. Tarpaulins were also ripped and blown away. Some of the fishermen had their own clothes that they took with them and they tried to save some of the items that were placed in the clothes, but were unable to because of the severity of the storm.

Overall, the storm had a severe impact on the community of Grand Rapids since many of the fishermen depended on fishing for their livelihood.

SECTION 2

ORDERS-IN-COUNCIL

A. Establishment of the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board (Appendix A)

The Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board was established under Order-in-Council No. 795/81. It is responsible for: recommending to the Minister of Government Services government policy on disaster assistance claims and reporting to the Minister of Government Services on disaster assistance matters. The Board provides a readily activated mechanism for dealing with damage related matters referred to it as a result of natural or human-made disasters.

B. Appointment of the Board Members (Appendix B and C)

Order-in-Council 686/83 appointed Mr. Albert St. Hilaire as a member and Chairman and Mr. Willis Ayers as a member and Vice-Chairman of the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board. Order-in-Council 428/84 appointed Mr. Rudy Regehr as the third Board member. These two Orders-in-Council outlined the powers and remuneration of the members of the Board.

C. The Fishing Equipment Losses Program (Appendix D)

Order-in-Council 39/87 contained the Terms of Reference and Limits of Compensation of the Fishing Equipment Losses Program for the individuals in Grand Rapids who lost their fishing equipment as a result of the storm on September 23, 1986. The assistance was in the form of an ex-gratia cash grant of up to $30,000.00 after a deductible of $250.00 or 25% of approved costs, whichever was greater. Financial assistance was provided to help defray the

costs of loss of such items as fishing nets, anchors, corks, leads and other small fishing items. The program was administered by the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board.

SECTION 3

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

On September 30, 1986, Mr. R. L. Carter, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, called the Board's office and spoke to the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Albert St. Hilaire.

Mr. Carter informed Mr. St. Hilaire that a severe storm had struck Grand Rapids causing a number of commercial fishermen to lose much of their fishing equipment. Mr. Carter was inquiring whether any type of assistance might be available to the fishermen in Grand Rapids for these losses. He also suggested that the Chairman contact the Mayor of Grand Rapids, Mr. Hubert Sinclair, in order to obtain further details about the storm.

The same day, Mr. St. Hilaire contacted Mayor Sinclair. Mr. Sinclair indicated that approximately 62 fishermen had lost their nets, anchors, ropes, etc., worth approximately $100,000.00.

Mr. St. Hilaire indicated that he would bring this matter to the attention of the Board, but felt that it would be difficult for him to justify going out to Grand Rapids to view the situation since many of the fishermen were up to 50 miles from Grand Rapids and the only way to get there would be by boat.

Mr. St. Hilaire asked Mayor Sinclair to prepare an itemized report of the losses for each of the fishermen and to submit this report to the Board's office as soon as possible.

Shortly after this telephone call, Yvonne Lavallee, from the Grand Rapids Fisherman's Co-op, submitted an itemized statement of the fishermen who had suffered losses as a result of this severe storm. A total of 48 names were submitted with a total estimate of losses in the vicinity of $47,000.00.

On October 28, 1986, the Board passed a motion recommending to the Minister of Government Services that assistance be offered to the fishermen of Grand Rapids for their losses as a result of the severe storm on September 23, 1986.

On January 7, 1987, Cabinet approved the fishing equipment losses program for the fishermen of Grand Rapids. Cabinet also decided that the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Honourable Harry Harapiak, would make the announcement on behalf of the Minister of Government Services, the Honourable John Plohman.

On January 15, 1987, the Honourable Harry Harapiak informed the Mayor of the Local Government District of Grand Rapids, Mr. Donald Pranteau, that the government had approved financial assistance to the fishermen of Grand Rapids and he also enclosed a number of application forms for the fishermen. A copy of the letter from the Minister of Northern Affairs to Mayor Donald Pranteau is enclosed under Appendix E. In addition, a news release announcing the program to the public was issued. A copy of the news release is enclosed under Appendix F.

After the applications were sent to the fishermen of Grand Rapids, the application forms began arriving in the Board's office. These applications forms were stamped numerically and recorded on index cards arranged alphabetically. File folders were then prepared for each applicant.

Upon completion of this, the files were forwarded to the Chief Evaluator in order to assess and calculate the losses, based on the Board's compensation

guidelines. Subsequent to the Chief Evaluator calculating the losses, the files were then passed to the Secretary of the Board and a Board member for their approval.

Following this approval, award letters were prepared and signed by a Board member along with the Secretary. The award letters were then mailed to the applicants along with the financial assistance agreement form. The purpose of this form was to ensure that the claimant did not receive compensation from any other sources for his losses, and secondly that the claimant was satisfied with the amount of compensation.

After the financial assistance agreements were returned to the Board's office signed, a cheque voucher was prepared and sent to the Department of Finance along with the award letter and the financial assistance agreement. The Department of Finance in turn would mail the cheques out to the individual claimants In the case of the Grand Rapids program, all of the cheques were forwarded to the Grand Rapids Fisherman's Co-op for distribution to the individual claimants.

The files were then placed in completed file drawers in numerical order for future reference.

The final item that the Board had to establish was the deadline for receiving applications. After consideration by the Board, a deadline of March 30, 1987 was established as the last date on which the Board could accept the applications for assistance. The Board informed the Grand Rapids Fisherman's Co-op of this deadline by way of a letter to the administrator, Yvonne Lavallee.

A list of all the forms used to administer the Grand Rapids fishing equipment losses program is enclosed in this report under Appendix G.

SECTION 4

SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOSS OF FISHING EQUIPMENT

The following is a summary of all the claims submitted to the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board regarding the Loss of Fishing Equipment Program in Grand Rapids.

Grand Rapids

Total Claims Received by the Board	52
Completed Claims	52
- Progress Payments - 0	
- Appeal Cases - 0	
No Claim	0

Compensation Costs

	Number of Claims	Amount of Compensation
Award U - All under $2,000	52	$47,926.04
Total Amount Paid for Loss of Fishing Equipment		$47,926.04
Average Amount of Compensation Per Claim		921.65

Administration Costs

Minimal since this program was administered in conjunction with other programs.

SECTION 5

CONCLUSION

The Board is satisfied that the Fishing Equipment Losses Program was administered according to the Terms of Reference and Limits of Compensation in the Order-in-Council referred to the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council.

The Board wishes to express its commitment to continue to serve the Government of Manitoba whenever disaster assistance programs are referred to the Board for administration and implementation. It is only with the full cooperation of all people involved that the residents of Manitoba can continue to receive assistance in times of disasters. The Board pledges itself to that cooperation.

APPENDIX

NOT FILMED